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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/715,213	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SCHLEGEL ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> NAMITHA PILLAI	<b>Art Unit</b> 2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/22/08</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. This Office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed under 37 CFR §1.53(d) on 2/22/08. Applicants have properly set forth the RCE, which has been entered into the application, and an examination on the merits follows herewith. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's amendments to claims 15-23, 25-32 and 35-48 and the addition of new claims 50-51. All pending claims have been rejected in view of the prior art disclosed below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 15-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 7, 275, 215 B2 (Werndorfer et al.), herein referred to as Werndorfer.

Referring to claim 15, Werndorfer discloses a method for enabling communications by a user having multiple identities from accounts with a single communications service (column 3, lines 39-37). Werndorfer discloses displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several accounts of the user with the communications service, each list including other identities

with whom the user communicates using the account to which the list corresponds (column 3, lines 39-37). There is a buddy list for each account in a unified graphical user interface. A buddy list includes a list of other identities with whom the user communicates. Werndorfer discloses using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the several accounts of the user, of a particular source account from which to initiate an electronic communication (Figures 7 and 8), where the user selects one identity from any of the accounts and initiates communication. Werndorfer discloses using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of identities corresponding to the particular source account selected by the user, of a particular identity to whom to send the electronic communication (Figures 7 and 8). Werndorfer discloses sending the electronic communication to the identity such that the electronic communication is identified to the particular identity as being sent from the particular source account selected by the user (Figures 8 and 9). Figure 8 displays a chat session to the identity from the source account. The chat display conveys the source account with which the user is sending communication with.

Referring to claim 16, Werndorfer discloses that the multiple accounts of the user are linked using linking logic based on a remote server (Figures 5 and 14).

Referring to claim 17, Werndorfer discloses comprising offering the user a list of potential accounts to which a link from the multiple accounts may be created, wherein the list of potential accounts is created based on relationships between the potential identities accounts and the multiple accounts known to exist within the remote server

(Figure 5), where the list of potential accounts and the status of the accounts are conveyed.

Referring to claim 18, Werndorfer discloses receiving a response to the electronic communication from the particular identity and addressed to the particular source account (Figure 8).

Referring to claim 19, Werndorfer discloses logging on to the single communications service using a first account of the user that differs from the particular source account and in response to logging on to the single communications service using the first account of the user, automatically being logged on to the single communications service for the particular source account (column 4, lines 20-22).

Referring to claim 20, Werndorfer discloses displaying indications of the several accounts of the user in the single graphical user interface (Figure 9).

Referring to claim 21, Werndorfer discloses comprising displaying the lists of other identities associated with each of the several accounts of the user in the single graphical user interface (Figure 9).

Referring to claim 22, Werndorfer discloses responsive to an addition of a new identity to the list for one of the several accounts of the user, adding the new identity to the lists for the other of the several accounts of the user (column 3, lines 39-47).

Referring to claim 23, Werndorfer discloses a graphical user interface for facilitating communications by a user having multiple accounts with a single instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising one or more window interfaces that are structured and arranged (column 3, lines 39-47). Werndorfer

discloses a display portion configured to make perceivable two or more instant messaging contact lists wherein each instant messaging contacts list includes one or more constituent instant messaging identities and each instant messaging contacts list is associated with one of the multiple accounts of the user (column 3, lines 39-47 and Figure 9). Werndorfer discloses one or more visual indicators that are configured to display the current logon status of the instant messaging identities included in the instant messaging contacts lists associated with the multiple accounts of the user (Figure 9), where the online and offline status are indicated. Werndorfer discloses wherein at least one instant messaging participant from one of the instant messaging contacts lists associated with a first identity account of the multiple accounts of the user is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user (Figure 9). Werndorfer discloses that at least one instant messaging participant from one of the instant messaging contacts lists associated with a second account of the multiple identities accounts of the user also is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user (Figure 9).

Referring to claim 24, Werndorfer discloses that the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable a display of an instant message addressed to one of the multiple identities of the user (Figure 8).

Referring to claim 25, Werndorfer discloses that the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of additional of the multiple accounts of the user in response to a sign on of one of the multiple accounts of the user (column 4, lines 20-21).

Referring to claim 26, Werndorfer discloses that the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of additional of the multiple accounts of the user in response to a sign on of any one of the multiple accounts of the user (column 4, lines 20-21).

Referring to claim 27, Werndorfer discloses that the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for each of the multiple accounts of the user (Figure 4).

Referring to claim 28, Werndorfer discloses that the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for one of the multiple accounts of the user, wherein the preferences are applied globally to the other accounts of the user (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 29, Werndorfer discloses displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several accounts of the user comprises displaying a single graphical user interface that is configured (Figure 7). Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to select a particular list for a particular one of the several accounts of the user (Figure 7), where the user selects an identity from a particular list. Werndorfer discloses in response to a selection by the user of the particular list for the particular account, display the particular list for the particular account selected by the user (Figure 7).

Referring to claim 30, Werndorfer discloses displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several accounts of the user

comprises concurrently displaying lists for each of at least two accounts of the user (Figure 7), the same identity of different accounts is displayed.

Referring to claim 31, Werndorfer discloses a method for linking multiple accounts of a user from for a single communications service (column 3, lines 39-47). Werndorfer discloses maintaining, for a user of a single communications service having multiple accounts for use in communicating with other users within the single communications service (column 3, lines 39-47), where the single application provides access to multiple communication accounts. Werndorfer discloses a first contacts list corresponding to a first account of the user, the first contacts list including one or more identities associated with one or more other users and enabling the user to communicate with the other users associated with the identities included within the first contacts list. Werndorfer discloses maintaining, for the user, a second contacts list corresponding to a second account of the user, the second contacts list being separate from the first contacts list, including one or more additional identities associated with one or more additional users, and enabling the user to communicate with the additional users associated with the additional identities included within the second contacts list. See column 3, lines 39-47. Each account has a separate buddy list which includes identities that the user can communicate with. Werndorfer discloses authenticating the first account of list using the first identity of the user. Werndorfer discloses authenticating the second account of the user. See column 4, lines 20-21. The sign on process authenticates the lists of the separate accounts. Werndorfer discloses creating an association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user,



wherein the association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first account of the user and the second account of the user in response to authentication of both the first account of the user and the second account of the user. See column 3, lines 39-47 and Figure 9. In response to signing on, a display of the lists of each account is displayed to the user. Werndorfer discloses that the single graphical user interface being configured to accommodate the first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user and the second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user such that graphical user interface enables the user to interact with the first contacts list to communicate with the other users using the first account of the user. Werndorfer also discloses interacting with the second contacts list to communicate with the additional users using the second account of the user. See Figures 8 and 9. The identities of each list can be contacted.

Referring to claim 32, Werndorfer discloses authenticating the first account includes using a first password to authenticate the first account and authenticating the second account includes using a second password to authenticate the second account (column 4, lines 20-21).

Referring to claim 33, Werndorfer discloses that the first password and the second password are the same (column 4, lines 34-38).

Referring to claim 34, Werndorfer discloses that the first password and the second password are different (column 4, lines 20-21).

Referring to claim 35, Werndorfer discloses authenticating the first account includes using a SecureID to authenticate the first account and authenticating the second account includes using a SecureID to authenticate the second account (column 4, lines 20-37).

Referring to claim 36, Werndorfer discloses creating the association between the first account and the second account includes using a one-way link configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account (column 3, lines 59-62).

Referring to claim 37, Werndorfer discloses creating the association between the first identity account and the second account includes using a bi-directional link configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account (column 3, lines 59-62).

Referring to claim 38, Werndorfer discloses creating the association between the first account and the second account includes using a star-link configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account (column 3, lines 59-62).

Referring to claim 39, Werndorfer discloses creating the association between the first identity account and the second account includes using a mesh-link configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account (column 3, lines 59-62).

Referring to claim 40, Werndorfer discloses that the first account is a part of a first domain and the second account is a part of a second domain that differs from the first domain (column 4, lines 28-30).

Referring to claim 41, Werndorfer discloses setting preferences for the first account wherein setting the preferences for the first account also sets the preferences for the second account (column 4, lines 38-40).

Referring to claim 42, Werndorfer discloses setting first preferences for the first account and setting second preferences for the second account (column 4, lines 21-25).

Referring to claim 43, Werndorfer discloses that the first contacts list and the second contacts list include one or more common identities listed on both the first participant contacts list and the second participant contacts list (Figure 7).

Referring to claim 44, Werndorfer discloses that single communications service enables linking multiple accounts within the single communications service so as to enable presence of one account to be reflected based on a login of another account of the multiple accounts (column 4, lines 34-38).

Referring to claim 45, Werndorfer discloses a method for enabling instant messaging by a user who has at least two different instant messaging accounts (column 3, lines 59-62). Werndorfer discloses displaying, to a user who has both a first instant messaging account and a second instant messaging account, a single instant messaging graphical user interface (Figure 7). Werndorfer discloses a first instant messaging participant contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user and that includes one or more instant messaging contacts that the

user has selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging contacts list. Werndorfer discloses a second instant messaging participant contacts list that is separate from the first instant messaging participant list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user. See column 3, lines 39-47. Each account has a separate buddy list which includes identities that the user can communicate with. Werndorfer discloses that it includes one or more instant messaging contacts that the user has selected for inclusion in the second instant messaging participant contacts list (Figure 7).

Werndorfer discloses receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of a first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list. Werndorfer discloses that in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list, enabling the user to compose a first instant message to the first instant messaging contact. Figures 8 and 9. Werndorfer discloses that based on the selection of the first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging participant contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user, sending the first instant message composed by the user to the first instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the first instant message as having been sent from the first instant messaging account (Figure 8). Werndorfer discloses receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of a second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging contacts list (Figure 9), where the identity from the Yahoo account can be selected. Werndorfer discloses that in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the

second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant contacts list, enabling the user to compose a second instant message to the second instant messaging contact. Werndorfer discloses that based on the selection of the second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, sending the second instant message composed by the user to the second instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the second instant message as having been sent from the second instant messaging account. See column 3, lines 39-47. Each account has its own IM functions where the identity can be selected from one of the accounts and a message sent to this account.

Referring to claim 46, Werndorfer discloses collapsing the first instant messaging participant contacts list within the instant messaging graphical user interface such that the one or more instant messaging contacts that are included in the first instant messaging participant contacts list are not visible within the instant messaging graphical user interface after collapsing the first instant messaging contacts list (Figure 7), selecting the “-“ next to “Online Contacts” collapses the list.

Referring to claim 47, Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to add a new instant messaging contact to the first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user (column 3, lines 39-47), where the user preferences include those that are implemented in IM services including adding new contacts. Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to add the same new contact to the second instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the second instant

messaging account of the user (column 3, lines 39-47). Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to select, from within the instant messaging graphical user interface, the new instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user. Werndorfer discloses that based on a selection of the new instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user. Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to send a new instant message to the new instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the new instant message as having been sent from the first instant messaging account. Figures 7 and 8. Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to select, from within the instant messaging graphical user interface, the new instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user (Figure 9).

Werndorfer discloses that based on a selection of the new instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, enabling the user to send another new instant message to the new instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the other new instant message as having been sent from the second instant messaging account. Figure 9 displays identities associated with multiple accounts. An identity from the second account is selectable where a message is sent to this identity.

Referring to claim 48, Werndorfer discloses displaying the single instant messaging graphical user interface that includes both the first instant messaging contacts list and the second instant messaging participant contacts list includes

concurrently displaying both the first instant messaging contacts list and the second instant messaging contacts list within the single instant messaging graphical user interface on a single display screen (Figure 9).

Referring to claim 49, Werndorfer discloses that the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user are maintained by the same instant messaging provider (column 3, lines 59-62).

Referring to claim 50, Werndorfer discloses that the communications service is an instant messaging service (column 1, lines 9-12). Werndorfer discloses that several accounts of the user are instant messaging accounts with the instant messaging service (column 3, lines 59-62). Werndorfer discloses displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of the several accounts of the user includes displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several instant messaging accounts of the user, each list including other identities with whom the user communicates via instant messaging using the instant messaging account to which the list corresponds (Figure 9). Werndorfer discloses using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the several accounts of the user, of a particular source account from which to initiate an electronic communication includes using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the several instant messaging accounts of the user, of a particular source instant messaging account from which to initiate an instant message (Figure 9), where the user selects a specific identity in a specific account.

Werndorfer discloses using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of identities corresponding to the particular source account selected by the user, of an identity to whom to send the electronic communication includes using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of identities corresponding to the particular source instant messaging account selected by the user, of an identity to whom to send the instant message (Figure 9). Werndorfer discloses sending the electronic communication to the identity such that the electronic communication is identified to the identity as being sent from the particular source account selected by the user includes sending the instant message to the identity such that the instant message is identified to the identity as being sent from the particular source instant messaging account selected by the user (Figure 8).

Referring to claim 51, Werndorfer discloses that the communications service is an instant messaging service (column 1, lines 9-12). Werndorfer discloses that the first account of the user is a first instant messaging account of the user with the instant messaging service. Werndorfer discloses that the second account of the user is a second instant messaging account of the user with the instant messaging service. See column 3, lines 59-62. Werndorfer discloses maintaining, for the user a first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user, includes maintaining, for the user, a first instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the first instant messaging account of the user, the first instant messaging contacts list including one or more instant messaging identities associated with one or more other users and enabling the user to communicate via instant messaging with the other users associated with the instant



messaging identities included within the first instant messaging contacts list.

Werndorfer discloses maintaining, for the user, a second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user, includes maintaining, for the user, a second instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the second instant messaging account of the user, the second instant messaging contacts list being separate from the first instant messaging contacts list, including one or more additional instant messaging identities associated with one or more additional users, and enabling the user to communicate via instant messaging with the additional users associated with the additional instant messaging identities included within the second instant messaging contacts list. See column 3, lines 39-45. There is a buddy list that is associated with each account. Each separate buddy list contains identities that the user communicates with. Werndorfer discloses authenticating the first account of the user includes authenticating the first instant messaging account of the user. Werndorfer discloses authenticating the second account of the user includes authenticating the first instant messaging account of the user. See column 4, lines 20-22. Werndorfer discloses creating an association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user includes creating an association between the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user (column 3, lines 59-62). Werndorfer discloses that the association between the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user in response to authentication of both the

first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user (Figure 7). In response to logging on and authenticating the accounts a graphical user interface displays multiple lists associated with separate IM accounts. Werndorfer discloses that the single graphical user interface being configured to accommodate the first instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the second instant messaging account of the user such that the single graphical user interface enables the user to interact with the first instant messaging contacts list to communicate with the other users via instant messaging using the first instant messaging account of the user and to interact with the second instant messaging contacts list to communicate with the additional users via instant messaging using the second instant messaging account of the user (Figures 7-9).

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 15-49 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach the method linked with multiple instant messaging accounts that are associated with one user.

Responses to this action should be submitted as per the options cited below: The United States Patent and Trademark Office requires most patent related correspondence to be: a) faxed to the Central Fax number (571-273-8300) b) hand carried or delivered to the Customer Service Window (located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), c) mailed to the mailing address set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 (e.g., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450), or d) transmitted to the Office using the Office's Electronic Filing System.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doon Chow can be reached on (571) 272-7767.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Namitha Pillai  
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August 4, 2008

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